

Start Your Self-Guided Walking Tour

1. Fairfield's Historic Town Green

The town green was established in 1639 by English colonists. Native Americans called this area "Uncoway," or "Beyond the River," and this was a site for their summer villages. Generations of diverse stories are represented within the original "four-square" English settlement. The town green continues to be the site of Fairfield's government.

2. Wolves Swamp and Fairfield's Native American Legacy

This tidal marsh was once part of an extensive network of wetlands. Native communities fished and hunted in this area and created wampum using quahog and whelk shells. Archaeological evidence indicates Native settlement here as early as 1220-1280 C.E.

3. Old Burying Ground

Established around 1685, this is the oldest burying ground in town. The oldest legible gravestone is dated 1687 and bears the initials S.M., probably for Samuel Morehouse.

4. Victorian Cottage and Barn (1888)

Both structures were built by the residents of Sun Tavern after it became a private home. The Victorian Cottage now features a dedicated early childhood space donated by the Fairfield Rotary Club and designed for kids to create, explore, and play. The Victorian Barn showcases an exhibit on Fairfield's agricultural roots and its contemporary connections.

5. Sun Tavern, c. 1780

Samuel Penfield acquired the property in 1761 and operated a tavern here. Taverns played many roles at this time. In addition to providing food and lodging for travelers and their horses, they also served as community hubs. Sun Tavern was rebuilt after being destroyed during the Burning of Fairfield in 1779.

6. Edward's Pond and Fairfield's Witch Trials

This area was once a large pond and the location of the trial of two women accused of witchcraft in 1692. The pond was filled in 1869, but the depression on the green remains.

7. Fairfield Academy, 1804

This building housed a co-educational school founded by prominent residents to prepare their sons for Yale and to give their daughters a classical education.

8. Burr Mansion, c. 1790

Admire the exterior of this "homestead" where John Hancock and Dorothy Quincy were married in 1775. It was rebuilt in 1790 by Thaddeus and Eunice Burr after the original structure was destroyed in the Burning of Fairfield in 1779.

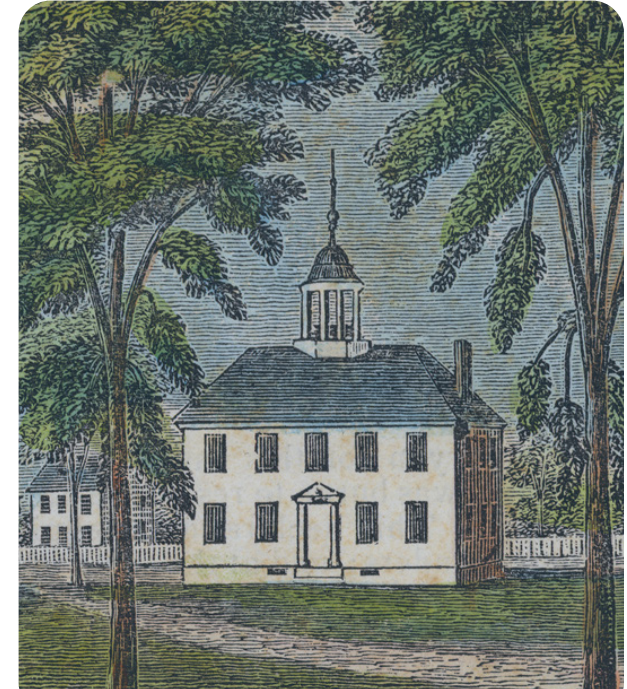
9. Old Town Hall

This building was originally the county courthouse, replacing a structure built in 1769 and burned by the British in 1779.

Front image: "Eastern View of the Courthouse, Congregational Church, and Jail in Fairfield" (detail), 1836, by John W. Barber in *Views of Connecticut*



Fairfield Museum
AND HISTORY CENTER



MUSEUM
COMMONS

Self-Guided
Walking Tour

Welcome to Fairfield's Historic Town Green!

Discover the rich history of Fairfield by exploring our Museum Commons. Fairfield's historic town green was first laid out in 1639 on the site of a Native American campsite. For nearly 400 years, it has been at the heart of Fairfield's original "four squares."

Begin your exploration of this historic site at the introductory interpretive sign adjacent to the Fairfield Museum and discover the hidden corners of the town's fascinating past. The interpretive signs (indicated by stars on the map) at each of the locations may be enjoyed in any order you choose.

Visit fairfieldhistory.org to learn more about the Fairfield Museum and seeing the Victorian Cottage, Victorian Barn, and Sun Tavern!

